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Appomattox, Virginia

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EDITORIAL OPINION

SENATOR BYRD SPEAKS OUT

Virginia's Senior Senator, Harry F. Byrd, is to be commended for speaking out, as he did last week, concerning the failure of the Eisenhower Administration to make progress toward balancing the federal budget and start payments on the tremendous national debt. As Mr Byrd points out, budget balancing was a major promise of the Republicans during the 1952 campaign.

"We can reduce our budget," said Candidate Eisenhower in the fall of 1952. "We can live within our means. That is what the brains of America can do if we just give them a chance."

Yet the Republicans have not balanced the budget, and now predict another huge deficit for the next fiscal year.

Senator Byrd is a champion of balanced budgets and getting out of debt. As the Democrats take over control of Congress in January, perhaps the voice of Senator Byrd will carry more weight.

CANDID COMMENT

(Wall Street Journal)

Men are often accused of being windy, but we've noticed that hurricanes are named for women.

STANDARD OF LIVING

(The Dallas Morning News)

The average per capita income of the people of the United States today varies from $1,159 in the Southeastern states to $1,984 in the Middle Atlantic states, according to the research department of the National Association of Manufacturers.

However, the variation as among the regions is less today than ever before. In the year 1939, the variation was from $332 in the Southeastern states to $915 in the Middle Atlantic. The Southeastern states gained 282 per cent during the 1939-1953 interval, while the Middle East was gaining 180 per cent.

These figures, which are based entirely upon United States Census Bureau reports, refute the argument sometimes made that a backward economic region tends to fall further and further behind. The reason that the poorer districts have gained more rapidly on a percentage basis is patent. Industry has gone into these regions, seeking better labor conditions plus certain other advantages, including closer proximity to raw reseuorces.

The Southwestern states in 1953 had an average per capita income of $1,443, which was an increase of 274 per cent over 1939. The percentage of increase was not quite as great as the percentage in the Southeast, but it was from a considerably higher base in 1939. (The Southwestern states in this study included Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.)

Actually, the standards of living are closer together than indicated by these paper figures. These estimates do not take into account the difference in cost of living as between Southern rural areas and the densely populated metropolitan centers. Under any circumstances they present further evidence of the tendency of a free economy to equalize standards of living as the national economy.

TRENDS IN RETAILING

Selected

There have been some interesting and important developments on the retail front.

An association of department and specialty stores reports that its members expect their business to top the 1953 volume and even to surpass the record set in 1952. A food chain association, too, finds the immediate outlook highly encouraging.

It is also stated that consumers show a growing preference for what might be termed "high living." That is, they want commodities of good quality which require a minimum of work and preparation by the purchaser. This, of course, is particularly noticeable in the food field, with "ready-for-the-table" items in heavy demand.

What these trends mean should be understood by everyone. First, the volume of retail trade is about the best barometer of business conditions as a whole that exists. The amount of business transacted across retail counters largely determines whether times are good or bad. Our magnificant mass-production system would soon slump into low gear unless our equally outstanding mass distribution system was able to move the goods.

Second, consumer insistence on labor-saving processes and equipment is a perfectly natural phenomena. Today there are 10,700,000 women workers and 57 per cent of them are married. They want the amount of time and labor required by domestic duties to be cut to the minimum.

Finally, "high living" items require more labor and often more materials. No one but the consumer can pay for that. The profits earned by retailers are, and have been at modest levels.

BUYING THAT CHRISTMAS TIE —FOR WOMEN ONLY

Tie manufacturers, buyers and salesmen say only one woman out of four knows how to buy ties men like —yet they buy 80% of the neckties sold every year.

Here are some tips from the editors of Changing Times, the Kiplinger Magazine, on how to buy that Christmas tie. Keep in mind that most men like conservative neckware. Buy colors that go with or contrast well with his suits. Avoid such patterns as flower prints, outdoor scenes, fried-egg patterns, or splotched effects. Try such favorites as regimental stripes or neat small designs regularly spaced. If pattern problems baffle you, solve them by getting solid colors—even if they don't seem exciting to buy, they are favorites with many men.

HONORS FOR A GOOD SOLDIER

(The New York Times)

When the American veterans of World War II and Korea — AMVETS for short—honored General of the Army George C. Marshall on Friday night, they also honored themselves. The President of the United States and his predecessor took advantage of this opportunity to tell what they think of George C. Marshall. In President Eisenhower's words this "soldier, statesman and citizen * * * has rendered to our country service of unexcelled patriotism and distinction." Former President Truman wrote: "He was the great man of the Second World War; he was a great Secretary of State; he was a great Secretary of Defense and (he) was one of the greatest Ambassadors that I had in my Presidential family."

We associate General Marshall with a long and constructive career in the Army. He has the ability, which seemingly is born in some men and omitted in others, to think in strategic terms and mass men and weapons to win victories. One of his assignments in 1918 was to move 500,000 troops and 2,700 guns, by night and inside of two weeks, without revealing the nature of this move to the enemy. He did this job superbly well and the result was victory in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. As a soldier General Marshall won the respect of his countrymen, even though he never made any effort to dramatize his personality. The Marshall Plan which saved Western Europe for freedom, may be his memorial in history.

But when the tangible achievements are all dimmed by time, the character of this fighting man who has hated war will be what will be long remembered. We give him no familiar nickname, but we do hold him in deep affection. At 74, the age he reaches this month, he should have years ahead of him, and he can still serve his country. The steel helmet that the AMVETS gave him is symbolic of a shining character and, let us hope, of protection against adversity.

GOOD FOR THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Contributed

In these days, when so many of us are forever seeking handouts from the federal treasury, any organization which refuses proffered government funds deserves recognition and honor.

The U. S. Olympic committee is such an organization. More than $1,000,000 is needed to drefray the cost of sending our Olympic team to the 1956 games at Melbourne Australia. But offers made by Congressmen to introduce bills appropriating money for this purpose were turned down. The committee's vice president said, "The money to support these athletics should come freely and spontaneously from the people!"

More power to the Olympic committee! Whether in sport or in any other enterprise, government should never do for the people what they can do for themselves.

CONSERVE FOREST RESOURCES

(Montgomery News Messenger)

The public is gradually awakening to the fact that forests are among our most important natural resources and are gradually dwindling away. Timber is being used faster than it can possibly be replaced.

The Virginia Forest Service is making a great effort to educate the public to the need of conserving the 131,600 acres of forest land in Montgomery County. In order for the county's forested acres to be more productive, forest fire prevention and wise timber management have to be practiced. For generations these forests have given freely their wealth that the economy of the county and state be raised to the point it is today. During this process the timber has been continually abused by improper cutting and fires caused by human carelessness.

We would be greatly alarmed if we were told that there would be no wheat or corn crop this year; and after a certain date there would be no bread. Bread is the staff of life. The products of the forest are equally a "staff" to industry and to us. We need a timber crop just as we need a wheat or a corn crop. Our forests are a great asset to us in many ways.

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From where I sit ... *by* Joe Marsh

Guess It's Called a Safety "Drive"

Whitey Fisher, from the State Motor Vehicle Department, dropped by to discuss some of our local traffic problems.

"Up at Center Junction," Whitey says, "they've got a new sign that really slows down the traffic going through town."

"The sign says, 'At 25 miles an hour, you can drive through Center Junction in 2½ minutes!' It slows people down too—some just take it easy to check on that 2½ minutes, I guess. Hasn't even been a dented fender since that sign went up."

From where I sit, it wasn't *what* the sign said, but the *way* it was said. People are usually pretty understanding if they understand what *you* mean. It's the same way with differences of opinion. Perhaps your neighbor prefers a temperate glass of beer, and you would choose buttermilk. What I'd like to see is for all of us to "slow down," talk it out, and be respectful of our neighbor's rights.

Joe Marsh

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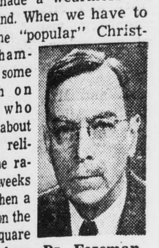
DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Scripture: Psalm 148; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20.
Devotional Reading: Luke 2:8-20.

Music of Christmas

Lesson for December 19, 1954

OTHER festival of the year is so full of music and of song as the festival of Christmas. Like food and beautiful things, this can be made a weariness to and mind. When we have to to some "popular" Christmas song, hammered out by some smith on Broadway who is more about than religion over the radio six weeks; or when a speaker on the house square its tireless throat keeps battering ears of Christmas shoppers "Silent Night," we wish the were silent. We almost wish angels had not set such an example.



Dr. Foreman

Music of Praise

It was not this nor any of that the angels meant when they sang their Gloria. The right music of Christmas is the music of praise, of glory to God. It is not a thing to fill up time on a disc jockey's program, not something to be produced by a machine. It is music of praise, for the heart, from the heart. On a road in the countryside or a boulevard in a distant city there is a great church, windows gleaming. In both there is singing tonight. The passerby in mud or on the pavement, it may seem that these sing alone. The frozen around the country church no sign; there in the jangling street there is no echo of the Hallelujah chorus in the sanctuary. Nature and man out of tune with the Christmas music. But to the listening hearing heart, come many voices.

Music of Creation

The poet-prophet of the 148th Psalm—one might almost think written these lines for a hymn — heard these. Like a descant which the music of a hymn weaves in beauty, so these other which only a poet's ear, add to the chorus of God. With him we hear God's angels, we hear the light. This tiny planet carries voices, but God's creation is vast. In realms of bliss spirits unsullied by sin sing "Glory to God"; and throughout the universe, where some can only the frightening between the stars, where can see only sightless endlessly whirling, the poet the morning stars singing —praising God by being they are, witnessing to the of his creation. And on planet too are songs unto man: "fruitful trees and; beasts and all cattle. Where Christ has come, and men have not out, all living things have praise God.

Music for All Men

Music of Christmas is for for "kings of the earth" of power and place. there is a land that can Christian, it is known is one King of kings, of lords. When Queen was crowned, it was by of Christ and in the Christ. When President was inaugurated, his act was a personal. There are no human beings highly placed to need so busy and important no time to praise him. and children" too are to join the chorus. Old by the fire or in the done with life; children in the sun or by the who do not yet know means; old men and who have to be cared make no decisions for —the small and the; all those on the outer life, let these too join. For God came down Christmas night not in to the music of a great when God broke the which man long had waited men are still slow to to believe, the news of this did not come as a the void. It came on the mighty song, borne by of stars and angels— first not to the kings of to humble shepherds but God had ever

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How Does It Feel To Be In A Sanatorium At Christmas Time?

Tuberculosis patients in three state sanitoria moved into the spotlight on a recent statewide program launching the 1954 Christmas Seal Sale in Virginia. One was an eleven-year old Negro child who has been bed-ridden with tuberculosis in Piedmont Sanatorium near Burkeville since he was three and a half. In an interview heard in 33 communities in the state he said, "I sure would like to see my mother, but she has to come an awful long way (from Southampton County) and she can't come more'n once or twice a year." Asked if he had any other visitors the boy said sadly that he had been "adopted by a lady once for a little while" who used to send him things he needed, but he guessed she'd gone away somewhere. Nurses and doctors at Piedmont were good to him, he said, and he had no memory of any other home than the sanatorium.

At Blue Ridge Sanatorium, Charlottesville, a young mother told the interviewer of her three small children left without a home in Warwick County because tuberculosis had invalided both parents. The father is at present in McGuire's Hospital in Richmond. If she could be well enough to be with her family by another Christmas, she said, "it would be the best present" she ever had. "We never had a lot for Christmas," she told the interviewer, "but we tried to make up for it by being together and sharing the fun. The baby's only two—and I wonder if she's grown and if she even remembers me."

Since the father's illness the family has received help from welfare agencies, and the Newport News-Warwick Tuberculosis Association sends the mother a monthly check for the things she needs, such as soap, stamps, stationery and personal necessities. "If you've never been without those things," she said, "you don't know what a relief it is to know you can buy them."

Somewhat the same story was told by a man and his wife hospitalized with tuberculosis at Catawba Sanatorium near Roanoke. The wife is there on a second admission because her TB became active again after her discharge in 1950. A sister, who was also a patient at Catawba, recently underwent chest surgery at the University of Virginia. Appreciative of the surgery that made it possible for him to work as a patient orderly in the hospital, the husband comments, "I'm just thankful my operation fixed me up so I can do a little work here, but it's sure not enough to do much for the kids." Of their five children, he said, the oldest boy was in service, and one girl worked in Catawba as an aide. The other children, of school age, were dependent upon the kindness of neighbors and welfare agencies for help. "It's hard to keep a home together when you can't be with the children," the wife said wistfully to the interviewer.

Patients were asked to appear on the statewide Christmas Seal Sale program to illustrate the serious nature of TB as a long-term disease with its attendant ills of increased poverty, broken homes and drain on public welfare funds. The annual Christmas Seal Sale supports the work of the local tuberculosis associations which, with the state and national associations, seek to fight TB by finding new cases, medical research, rehabilitation and teaching of good health practices.

100 PERCENT FATAL DISEASE CAN BE CONTROLLED

If you knew of a disease from which there had never been a recovery, would you do everything you could to prevent it?

That isn't a hypothetical question. It is a real one, and unbelievably enough the answer has too often, too long, been "no," says Dr. S. L. Kalison, veteriniarian at the VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

The disease? Rabies! The control? Known for over 70 years, and consisting of a three point program (1) Vaccination of at least 70% of the dog population. (2) Quarantine of all dogs. (3) Control of wildlife.

The control program, thoroughly enforced, does work. Take a look at England, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden Australia, and other countries where rabies is now non-existent.

But in America, Dr. Kalison says, most control programs have failed. For instance, quarantine laws have not been enforced. Resistance of such groups as dog owners and hunt clubs have frequently caused elected officials to ease up on the laws necessary to enforce control measures. There is a belief that strong quarantine measures will discourage dog owning, and furthermore dog owners have not been educated as to their responsibilities.

Vaccination programs have failed and will fail when used alone. They are usually based on licensing laws. But licensing machinery is almost always weak and is seldom more than 70% effective. The roving dog is not reached by vaccination, so the most dangerous part of the dog population is left as a reservoir of infection. Furthermore, dog owners resent compulsory vaccination and will not conform to it because it is unfair to owners who normally keep their dogs under close confinement.

Where highly concentrated populations of a wildlife species are involved, the numbers must be drastically reduced—and quickly. Rabies is most difficult to control in wild life. Bounties are not enough. There must also be an intensive control effort, and this is often lacking. Unfortunately programs that should start in December or January, after the first appearance of a case in the fall, often do not develop at that time because of lack of public interest and support. By June when local interest becomes aroused, fox control has become difficult. With few cases turning up in the summer, interest dies down and again no program is begun.

Once symptoms develop, Dr. Kalison stresses, the disease is 100% fatal. All warm-blooded animals are susceptible. The agonizing death of a human has too often been necessary to arouse localities to the need of a control program.

Cook Books AND CHECK BOOKS

A cook book helps the thrifty housewife to transform odds and ends of food into tasty dishes. A check book, through the record it provides, helps in the financial management of the family's funds.

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